

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of adjusting the optical thickness of ~~an optical component~~ a lens made from a material transparent to light to be used, comprising;

adding one of layers of a material which is the same as the material of ~~said optical component~~ a lens, and of a material which has an index of refraction close to the index of refraction of ~~said the material of said optical component~~ the lens, to a surface of ~~said optical component~~ the lens by at least one of vapor deposition and vapor growth, so that optical thickness is increased.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~An optical component~~ A lens whose optical thickness has been adjusted by the thickness adjustment method of claim 1.

3. (New) A method of adjusting the optical thickness of a lens according to claim 1, wherein the lens is a solid immersion lens.

4. (New) A lens according to claim 2, wherein the lens is a solid immersion lens.